

Older Persons and Persons With Disabilities Report on Trash and Recycling Disposal

This information is a summary of the informal surveys to the Area Agencies on Aging. Please note that not all of the above comments were reported by each area agency, and there were some that did not respond in time to include their response in this summary.

For the most part, it seems that older adults and persons with disabilities are managing to accommodate burn bans even in the absence of discounts to help them with the increased costs of trash hauling and recycling vs. burning as well as the assistance to help them get the trash and recyclables to the curb for pick up.

Senior Citizen and/or Persons with Disabilities Discount:

Listed below are some sample communities and the discounts that are provided to their citizens. There are likely more municipalities, counties or private haulers that also offer discounts that are not captured here. The discounts appear to apply to low income older adults and persons with disabilities.

- ❖ Cedar Rapids – Reduced rate (50%) for persons over 62 or persons with disabilities
- ❖ Iowa City discounts 20% for low income elderly & low income residents who qualify for TANF, SSI, etc.
- ❖ Council Bluffs – discounts if income is \$13K or less
- ❖ Ft. Madison – 50% for seniors 65+
- ❖ Morning Sun – 9%
- ❖ West Point – 9%
- ❖ Winfield - 9%

Recycling – Curbside or Drop off sites – Assistance to recycle

- ❖ Where recycling is curbside:
 - Civic organizations, neighbors, chore services assist older person/person with disability
 - Some provide walk up service, but customer generally has to provide proof of physical disability such as statement from the physician, etc.
 - Place recyclables with other trash
- ❖ Where recycling is a drop off site
 - Civic organizations, neighbors, friends, limited chore services
 - Place recyclables with other trash
 - Burn recyclables with other trash

Trash

- ❖ Some seniors continue to burn even where there is a ban – particularly in rural areas
- ❖ For older adults and persons with disabilities, some have physical challenges that make it hard to carry/move the trash to the curb for pick up
 - Civic organizations/volunteers, neighbors, chore services assist
 - Some haulers provide walk up service but customer generally has to provide proof of disability such as a statement from the physician, etc.
 - Worst case scenario is people who do nothing until an intervention occurs